

Amendments to the Claims:

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The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A motor drive apparatus comprising:

an inverter (14) driving a motor;

a voltage converter (12) including a switching element (Q1, Q2) and a reactor (L1)

and having said switching element (Q1, Q2) switched to convert a DC voltage between a power supply (B) and said inverter (14); and

a control circuit (302, 302A, 302B, 302C, 302D, 302E) controlling said voltage converter (12) to stop said switching element from switching when said reactor (L1)'s current traverses a zero point.

2. (Currently Amended) A motor drive apparatus comprising:

a drive device (14) driving a motor;

a voltage converter (12) including a switching element (Q1, Q2) and a reactor (L1)

and having said switching element (Q1, Q2) switched to convert a voltage between a power supply (B) and said drive device (14); and

a control circuit (302, 302A, 302B, 302C, 302D, 302E) controlling said voltage converter (12) to stop said switching element from switching when said reactor (L1)'s current traverses a zero point while said current varies.

3. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein said control circuit (302) makes a decision from a power supply current input to and output from said power supply (B) and maximum and minimum values of said reactor's current as to whether to stop said switching element from switching and is driven by said decision to

control said voltage converter (12) to stop said switching element from switching to perform an up or down converting operation.

4. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 3, further comprising:

a first current sensor (11) detecting said power supply current; and
a second current sensor (18) detecting said reactor's current, wherein from said reactor's current detected by said second current sensor (18) said control circuit (302) detects maximum and minimum values of said reactor's current and makes a decision from said maximum and minimum values detected and a power supply current detected by said first current sensor (11) as to whether to stop said switching element from switching.

5. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 3, wherein when said maximum and minimum values are different in polarity and said power supply current flows from said power supply (B) to said voltage converter (12) said control circuit (302) controls said voltage converter (12) to stop said up converting operation.

6. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 3, wherein when said maximum and minimum values are different in polarity and said power supply current flows from said voltage converter (12) to said power supply (B) said control circuit (302) controls said voltage converter (12) to stop said down converting operation.

7. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein said control circuit (302) makes a decision from a current input to and output from said voltage converter (12) as to whether to stop said switching element from switching and is driven by

said decision to control said voltage converter (12) to stop said switching element from switching.

8. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein when said reactor's current does not traverse said zero point said control circuit (302, 302A, 302B, 302C, 302D, 302E) further controls said voltage converter (12) to have said switching element switched to perform an up or down converting operation.

9. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein said control circuit (302A) makes a decision from a mode of operation of said motor (M1) and maximum and minimum values of said reactor's current as to whether to stop said switching element from switching and is driven by said decision to control said voltage converter (12) to stop said switching element from switching to perform an up or down converting operation.

10. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein said control circuit (302B) makes a decision from a mode of operation of said motor (M1) and a power supply current required for said motor (M1) to output required power as to whether to stop said switching element from switching and is driven by said decision to control said voltage converter (12) to stop said switching element from switching to perform an up or down converting operation.

11. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein said control circuit (302B) makes a decision from a power supply current required for said motor (M1) to output required power as to whether to stop said switching element from switching

and when said power supply current required is zero said control circuit (302B) controls said voltage converter (12) to stop said switching element from switching.

12. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein said control circuit (302C) makes a decision from a mode of operation of said motor (M1) and a torque required for said motor (M1) as to whether to stop said switching element from switching and is driven by said decision to control said voltage converter (12) to stop said switching element from switching to perform an up or down converting operation.

13. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein said control circuit (302D) makes a decision from an acceleration pedal position of a vehicle having the motor drive apparatus (100D) mounted therein, a mode of operation of said motor (M1), and a torque required for said motor (M1) as to whether to stop said switching element from switching and is driven by said decision to control said voltage converter (12) to stop said switching element from switching to perform an up or down converting operation.

14. (Currently Amended) A motor drive apparatus comprising:
a drive device (54) driving a motor;
a power generation device (55) generating power;
a power generation drive device (56) driving said power generation device;
a voltage converter (53) including a switching element (Q1, Q2) and a reactor (L1) and having said switching element (Q1, Q2) switched to convert DC voltage between a power supply (51), and said drive device (54), said power generation device (55) and said power generation drive device (56); and

a control circuit (57) controlling said voltage converter (53) to stop said switching element from switching while an amount of power supplied via said voltage converter (53) from said drive device (54), said power generation device (55) and said power generation drive device (56) toward said power supply (51) to charge said power supply (51) is smaller than a power loss value in said voltage converter (53).

15. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 14, wherein said amount of power charging said power supply (51) is determined by a load command of said drive device (54), power consumed by said power generation drive device, and power generated by said power generation device (55).

16. (Currently Amended) A motor drive apparatus comprising:
a drive device (54) driving a motor;
a power generation device (55) generating power;
a power generation drive device (56) driving said power generation device (55);
a voltage converter (53) including a switching element (Q1, Q2) and a reactor (L1)
and having said switching element (Q1, Q2) switched to convert DC voltage between a power supply (51), and said drive device (54), said power generation device (55) and said power generation drive device (56); and

a control circuit (57) controlling said voltage converter (53) to stop said switching element from switching while an amount of a current supplied via said voltage converter (53) from said drive device (54), said power generation device (55) and said power generation drive device (56) toward said power supply (51) to charge said power supply (51) is smaller than a current loss value in said voltage converter (53).

17. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a current sensor (58) detecting said amount of current charging said power supply (51).

18. (Currently Amended) A vehicle comprising:
a wheel (111);
a motor (MG2) driving said wheel (111); and
the motor drive apparatus (100, 100A, 100B, 100C, 100D, 100E, 100F, 100G) of any of claims 1, 2 and 14-17 claim 1 driving said motor (MG2).

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having a program stored therein for causing a computer to control voltage conversion between a power supply (B) and a drive device (14) driving a motor (M1), said program causing the computer to execute:

a first step of making a decision as to whether a current flowing through a reactor (L1) included in a voltage converter (12) effecting said voltage conversion traverses a zero point; and

when said current traverses said zero point, a second step of controlling said voltage converter (12) to stop a switching element (Q1, Q2) included in said voltage converter (12) from switching while said current varies while traversing said zero point.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having a program recorded therein for causing a computer to control voltage conversion in a motor drive apparatus (100F), wherein:

said motor drive apparatus (100F) includes

a drive device (54) driving a motor,
a power generation device (55) generating power,
a power generation drive device (56) driving said power generation device (55), and
a voltage converter (53) converting voltage between a power supply (51), and
said drive device (54), said power generation device (55) and said power generation drive
device (56); and
said program causes a computer to execute
a first step of making a decision as to whether an amount of power supplied
from said drive device (54), said power generation device (55) and said power generation
drive device (56) toward said power supply (51) to charge said power supply (51) is smaller
than a power loss value in said voltage converter (53), and
for said amount of power smaller than said power loss value, a second step of
controlling said voltage converter (53) to stop a switching element (Q1, Q2) included in said
voltage converter (53) from switching while said amount of power is smaller than said power
loss value.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having a program
recorded therein for causing a computer to control voltage conversion in a motor drive
apparatus (100G), wherein:
said motor drive apparatus (100G) includes
a drive device (54) driving a motor,
a power generation device (55) generating power,
a power generation drive device (56) driving said power generation device (55), and

a voltage converter (53) converting voltage between a power supply (51), and said drive device (54), said power generation device (55) and said power generation drive device (56); and

 said program causes a computer to execute

 a first step of making a decision as to whether an amount of a current supplied from said drive device (54), said power generation device (55) and said power generation drive device (56) toward said power supply (51) to charge said power supply (51) is smaller than a current loss value in said voltage converter (53), and

 for said amount of the current smaller than said current loss value, a second step of controlling said voltage converter (53) to stop a switching element (Q1, Q2) included in said voltage converter (53) from switching while said amount of the current is smaller than said current loss value.